GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1624
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
INCREASING QUANTITY OF NITROGEN IN THE AIR
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp increase of Nitrogen level in the air as reported in the Dainik Jagran, dated October 25, 2007;

(b) If so, whether the Government endorses the estimates prepared by the European Space Agency; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to keep the quantity of Nitrogen Dioxide within permissible limit?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) The news item in Dainik Jagran, New Delhi dated 25th October, 2007 entitled 'The Rising Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) in Indian Ambient Air' refers various estimates pertaining to NO_2 and its trend. The Central Pollution Control board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality including NO_2 at 339 locations across the country under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The monitored data from 1989 onwards in various cities indicates that annual average concentration of NO_2 is within the permissible norms and showing uneven trend.

(c) Various steps taken to keep the quantity of Nitrogen Dioxide within permissible limits are:

notification of general and source specific environmental standards;
implementation of Bharat Stage-III emission norms, for vehicles at manufacturing stage;
introduction of improved Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certification System for in-use vehicles;
encouraging the use of low NOx burner in thermal power plants; and
regular monitoring for environmental compliance.